

Raids by Wild Horses.

In the Arizona papers of late there have been frequent complaints of serious injuries, both to crops and to pastures, caused by the raids of wild horses. Something like 20,000 of these creatures, it is estimated, are now roaming the plains of that territory, and they have become serious nuisances. There is some cause for surprise in the fact that at this late day, even in Arizona, an animal alien to the country can resume the habits of his almost unmeasurably remote ancestors and can multiply rapidly without care or protection of any kind. The horse in domestication is a rather delicate creature, subject to many ills and often hard to keep in health, though watched with close attention and allowed to want for nothing whatever. When forced to rely on his own resources, however, he shows a marked capacity for resuming the wild state and for guarding himself against enemies of all sorts. Ever since the days of the Spanish explorers the horse at every opportunity has demonstrated his liking for freedom and his adaptability for meeting without aid the conditions of life in the west and south. Large herds were often seen years ago, but that they should still find room in the United States is really notable, as proving that the country is not nearly so well settled as the opponents of immigration would have us believe.—New York Times.

The Leading Sheep State.

It is perhaps due to Judge Lawrence and his persistent Ohio followers that a general impression prevails that the wool and sheep industry is centered in the Buckeye state. But that distinction is claimed, and probably justly, by the people of Montana. The last legislature of that state passed an act for the organization of a board of sheep commissioners, one for each county, and all

but five of the counties have taken advantage of the law. Their first annual report is just out, and is very flattering. Montana has been in the sheep industry for about twenty-five years and she now has 3,600,000 sheep, or more than any other state, with an annual production of wool reaching over 22,000,000 pounds. The industry has been built up on what without it would have been waste, and has made a market at cheap rates for lands that would otherwise have been unsalable at any price. The estimated increase in value of sheep there is \$4,400,000; of wool, \$1,125,000, and of the sheep slaughtered or marketed, over \$1,000,000, or a total of \$6,700,000, a gain of nearly \$45 per capita for all the people of the state.—Boston Transcript.

Gold Output of Colorado.

The books of the United States branch mint at Denver for the year 1897 are now closed. The deposits of gold are the largest ever received. The total will slightly exceed \$12,200,000, and a conservative estimate made by the mint officials places the entire output of Colorado at \$22,000,000 in round figures. Colorado will go far ahead of California, as it is said to be doubtful if California's output will touch the \$18,000,000 mark. Last year Colorado's output was \$16,500,000 and that of California was \$17,000,000, while the total production of the country was \$61,717,926. The great increase in the Colorado output this year will send the total for the United States up to the \$70,000,000 mark.

The wool market shows more strength and holders are sanguine that higher prices will prevail. The supply to be sold is below expectation and conditions in the markets abroad are strong. There is a good demand for territorial wools in the market, and an excess of 2,000,000 pounds of territorial wools were sold in Boston last week.